the Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings except in case of events of national importance or on national occasions.

(b) to (d) The contents of Government Advertisements after obtaining approval of the competent authority of the concerned Ministries/ Departments are published through DAVP in the Newspapers/Periodicals from the approved panel and hence there is no possibility of the any violation of the Advertising Policy.

New FM Radio policy

702. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BORADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new FM Radio policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time-frame within which the policy would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, TRAI's recommendations on licensing issues relating to 2nd Phase of Private FM Radio Broadcasting is currently under examination. New policy framework is being finalized.

(c) No time frame can be indicated.

Policy for FM radio stations

703. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a policy to allow private operators to set up FM radio stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the authority to whom private applicants for FM radio stations should apply;

(d) the number of applications received so far during the last three months; and

(e) the criteria adopted to issue such permits for FM radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The Government entered into License Agreement with private companies to set up FM radio stations in various cities in October, 2000 through a Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) issued in October, 1999. In all, 16 Companies signed License Agreements for setting up 37 FM radio stations in 19 cities. Out of these, 21 FM radio stations